

Chesapeake Bay Program Jurisdictional Support for 2-Year Milestone Development and WIP Implementation: Technical Outreach & Assistance

Background

CBP staff and partners provide technical assistance and resources to support the jurisdictions' WIP and 2-year milestone development and implementation efforts. Many of these resources are always available upon request, such as assistance with BMP targeting and water quality monitoring trends data. However, as part of its outreach and assistance to the jurisdictions, EPA CBPO will be coordinating a more consistent effort among EPA, CBP staff, USGS and other technical and scientific partners to integrate data and information, work with the jurisdictions on analyses of interest, and engage in technical working sessions with jurisdictions in preparation for each 2-year milestone development period. This document outlines the strategy for this technical outreach and assistance.

Strategy Outline

Overview: In advance of the next 2-year milestone development period (beginning spring 2021), CBP technical teams made up of EPA CBPO, CBP, and USGS staff will work with each jurisdiction individually to identify technical assistance areas of interest that would be useful for guiding 2-year milestone development and WIP implementation. While WIP implementation is the focus of this technical assistance strategy, the CBP technical team will work with jurisdictions to incorporate other Watershed Agreement outcomes as possible into this work. Over the course of 2020 and early 2021, CBP technical teams will work with jurisdictions on scoping questions of interest, collaborate with jurisdictions on analyzing and synthesizing jurisdiction-specific information, and meet with jurisdictions through workshops, working sessions, or other meetings, to discuss results and how they can inform 2-year milestone development and/or WIP implementation. The technical work over 2020-2021 will build on results from past technical efforts (such as the synthesis efforts for the Bay TMDL's Midpoint Assessment) and can identify potential future jurisdictional priorities for technical assistance moving into 2022.

Jurisdictional participation: EPA CBPO will work with the jurisdictions on setting up scoping meetings, identifying key staff and partners to participate (e.g. state agencies, technical partners, local partner representatives, funding distributors) and to schedule follow-up meetings throughout the year. It is the CBP technical teams' hope that the technical work scoped with each jurisdiction is a collaborative effort, and that jurisdictional staff will participate in analyses and provide their local knowledge to help address questions.

Draft Timeline

April – Sept 2020: Jurisdictions review water quality trends; begin formulating key questions, analyses, or focus areas of interest for technical assistance; and provide feedback on proposed technical assistance strategy

Sept 2020: EPA CBPO coordinates with key technical partners (e.g., USGS and CBP staff) and work individually with each jurisdiction to develop a list of priority questions, topics, or analysis

Sept 2020 – March 2021: CBP technical teams work together and with jurisdictions on addressing priorities

March – May 2021: CBP technical teams and jurisdictions meet for workshops or meetings to discuss new information and how it can be used for 2-year milestone development and/or WIP implementation

August – December 2021: Jurisdictions use this information as appropriate to inform 2-year milestone planning and continue with WIP implementation efforts

January 2022: Jurisdictions submit 2022-2023 water quality milestones to EPA

Example topics that can be explored with jurisdictions:

Water quality trends:

- Assessing and describing water quality monitoring results and patterns in watershed and tidal waters
- Explaining drivers of water quality trends in specific geographic areas
- Connecting watershed water quality to tidal water quality
- Water quality standards analysis in tidal waters

Programs, policies, practices:

- Identifying potential policies, programs, and practices based on water quality monitoring to advance implementation efforts
- Policy analysis at local and jurisdictional levels – for water quality, land use change, agriculture, etc.
- Targeting or focusing implementation efforts geographically, by sector, or by practice
- Siting of specific BMPs such as forest or grass buffers
- Land use change scenarios (e.g., what's driving them, impact on loads, and/or policy options)

Other Watershed Agreement Goals & Outcomes and Co-benefits:

- Understanding impacts of water quality on living resources
- Understanding co-benefits associated with water quality practices and how they relate to other Watershed Agreement outcomes
- Identifying potential funding partners based on co-benefits in different geographic areas
- Understanding climate change implications and options
- Geographic analysis for meeting multiple priorities

Local engagement:

- Developing local stories looking at water quality, local sources and drivers, effective and cost-effective BMPs
- CAST tutorials for local partners
- CAST scenario development for local partners based on local goals
- Climate change and resiliency: set up mechanisms for technical assistance for local groups to generate data and analysis
- Climate change and resiliency: local input on the use of data extrapolation methods

Decision support tools:

- Trainings on data tools such as Chesapeake Bay Watershed Data Dashboard, Chesapeake Bay Program Open Data Portal
- Developing and using tools for siting and tracking BMP implementation such as Field Doc
- Utilizing geographic isolation runs to geographically target for tidal waters

Citizen science:

- Engaging with citizen science monitoring groups on providing useful data

Key Staff (list not exhaustive)*EPA:*

Greg Barranco, EPA CBPO – integrating other goals and outcomes, local engagement

Lew Linker, EPA CBPO – climate change analysis

Tuana Phillips, EPA CBPO – integrating other goals and outcomes, local engagement

Lucinda Power, EPA CBPO – coordination with jurisdictions, EPA State WIP leads, and Region 3

Robert Sabo, EPA ORD – non-tidal water quality trends analysis

Jeff Sweeney, EPA CBPO – BMP progress, load reduction progress, verification, wastewater

Emily Trentacoste, EPA CBPO – integrating modeling and monitoring, integrating co-benefits and other outcomes

Vanessa Van Note, EPA CBPO – BMP progress, load reduction progress, verification
State WIP leads, EPA Region 3

USGS:

Peter Claggett, USGS – land change, land use update schedule and utility
Jeni Keisman, USGS – tidal water quality analysis and connection to watershed
Doug Moyer, USGS – non-tidal water quality trends analysis
Scott Phillips, USGS – non-tidal water quality trends analysis, integrating co-benefits and other outcomes
Gary Shenk, USGS – climate change analysis
Peter Tango, USGS – citizen science monitoring, monitoring networks
Jimmy Webber, USGS – non-tidal water quality trends analysis and watershed analysis
John Wolf, USGS – GIS, mapping, data tools, data access

Other CBP Staff:

Olivia Devereux, Devereux Consulting – CAST
Mark Dubin, UMD – agricultural policy analysis
Ruth Cassilly, UMD– local storyline development, local communication, policy analysis, programmatic analysis
Rebecca Murphy, UMCES – tidal water quality analysis
Sucharith Ravi, UMCES – wastewater
Jess Rigelman, J7 LLC – CAST questions, data
Qian Zhang, UMCES – tidal water quality analysis and watershed/water quality analysis

Notes:

NY is interested in further analyses of any of the gauges where there are upward trends and understand what's driving those changes.

Submitting state-specific data for inclusion in the model – opportunities to do a new research project to include new data in the model. Need more guidance on where those research opportunities are. NY does plan on submitting soil P data. Other examples of similar efforts will be helpful.

NY would like a better understanding of model data inputs and how they impact the model. Baseline understanding of the model (i.e., CAST) and how the data inputs work and interact. Would also like a better understanding of the most-effective basins methodology and the climate change information. NY has a difficult time communicating this information to partners.

Action: Lucinda will talk with Olivia Devereaux and other CBPO staff about providing a training on CAST, the most-effective basins methodology, and climate change. Lucinda will also provide to NY existing communication materials on these topics.

Action: Lucinda and Emily will be in touch about scheduling the technical assistance meeting. NY would like to open up this discussion to regional staff, districts, and their planning board.